

NEWS Release

For Immediate Release

Topic: Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries
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On-the-job injuries resulted in the deaths of 113 Mississippi workers during 1998. The Mississippi State Department of Health today released

these and other results of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles the information about each workplace fatality in the state by cross-referencing source records such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies.

The multiple sources help identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries in the state. Major findings of the statewide Census indicate:

- Transportation accidents led all other fatal events, accounting for 50 percent of fatal occupational injuries in 1998
- The age group with the highest number of fatalities was between 35 and 44 years of age, accounting for 28 percent of all the fatal occupational injuries in Mississippi
- About 91 percent of the fatally injured workers were men
- Employees working for pay accounted for about 82 percent of the workplace fatalities, while the self-employed and those working in family businesses accounted for about 18 percent; and
- Among the industry categories with the largest number of fatal work injuries were transportation and public utilities at 16 percent, construction at 15 percent, manufacturing at 14 percent, agriculture, forestry, and fishing at 12 percent, services at 11 percent, and retail trade at 9 percent.

Fatal Occupational Injuries – Add 1

The information obtained in this study will be used for injury surveillance, to establish work-place safety programs, to promote hazard alertness, and to encourage safe work environments in Mississippi.

The U. S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Employment Standards Administration, U. S. Department of Justice, National Transportation Safety Board, the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, and the county medical examiners and employers throughout the state all contribute to Mississippi's annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

The Census is available to the public on the Mississippi State Department of Health's website at www.msdh.state.ms.us.

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